Summary of L'Arche's FY 2009

Revenue and Expenses

Revenue
- Government Contracts: $1,336,942 (62%)
- Grants and Contributions: $768,172 (36%)
- Investments and Other Income: $56,463 (2%)
- Total Revenue: $2,163,577

Expenses
- Homes Program: $1,425,425 (80%)
- Other Programs: $318,723 (18%)
- Administration: $301,618 (6%)
- Fundraising: $142,691 (8%)
- Total Expenses: $2,288,541
- Change in Net Assets: $374,299
- Net Assets: $3,350,637

Changes in Net Assets
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Balance Sheet
- Assets: $6,252,841
- Liabilities: $2,920,970
- Net Assets: $3,350,637

Thank you to the generous foundations, corporations, and organizations that supported L'Arche during fiscal year 2010

Audited Statement:

A complete audited financial statement is available upon request.

The Heart of L'Arche Society is a group of donors who make five-year pledges: Companion Circle $1,000+, Advocate Circle $10,000+, and Servant Leadership Circle $25,000+. To learn more about joining this group, or about planning a legacy gift, contact Bethany Keener at 202.507.1328

L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C.
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Kristen Collins, Mary Ruppert, Eileen Schofield, Fritz Schloss, and Daniel Zündorf collapse after a pillow fight. Photo: Daniel Zündorf

John Cook
Executive Director

The most exciting growth is the change in individuals. Dottie Bockstiegel, founding L’Arche board member

DEAR FRIENDS,

This year marked a new era for L’Arche Greater Washington, D.C. The growth we envisioned more than a decade ago has finally been completed with the construction of our newest home, located in Arlington, Virginia. We welcomed four new core people and their companions to our community in August. While we’re excited to be reaching more people, we also recognize that growth isn’t just about numbers—it’s about developing as individuals. That can mean cooking spaghetti or going down a waterslide for the first time, learning a new skill like photography, using a cell phone to gain independence, deepening friendships, and adapting to the changing physical needs of our core people.

When it came time to build a fourth home, L’Arche took painstaking care in the construction—wide hallways, an elevator, and a kitchen sink low enough to be used by someone seated in a wheelchair. The home was designed to be a place where community could grow in any room. Charles Clark, who moved into the new home in August, enjoys having a spacious room to himself and a prayer room for quiet reflection. But what drew him to L’Arche was the quality of relationships. “I have more love here,” he says. That love is manifest in the freedom he has to go out when he pleases, attend parties, see movies, and have guests over for dinner. And when things aren’t perfect? “We work it out.” To Charles, L’Arche feels like family.

As an adult living in Adams Morgan, Bill decided to start looking for a home that included guests over for dinner. And when things aren’t perfect? “We work it out.” To Charles, L’Arche feels like family.

Charles Clark, L’Arche representative

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Ivo Spalitan recalls what he and the other founding board members had in mind when L’Arche opened its first home in 1983. “We were intent on providing each resident with a community-based, permanent home environment,” he said. “Issues of expansion, while great, could only happen with such a base.”

Dottie Bockstiegel, a founding board member who lived in L’Arche for twenty-four years, saw this base established. “The core people have grown in their sense of self and value in society,” she says, “and each year I see tremendous growth in the assistants’ sense of building community.”

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Though L’Arche assistants are not medical professionals, they are trained to administer medication and to recognize potential medical conditions. One afternoon at dinner, assistant Ellen Green noticed Gene Sampson was having difficulty talking and was experiencing weakness on his left side. Gene’s CAT scan at the emergency room revealed he had suffered two strokes. He was admitted to the hospital and later to National Rehabilitation Hospital for several weeks of intense therapy.

This is how L’Arche changes society, one person at a time, with an invitation to love and friendship.

The way L’Arche integrates core people into society breaks down barriers and misimpressions. By doing that they’re changing the world.

Eileen Schofield, Bill Zavarello, and Mo Higgs enjoy being neighbors.

CHANGING SOCIETY

Bill Zavarello remembers how uncomfortable he was as a child when his great-uncle was present at family gatherings. Though friendly, his uncle’s speech and mannerisms marked him as different.

Bill recalls, “That was my first close exposure to someone with developmental disabilities, and it was from a position of fear.”

As an adult living in Adams Morgan, Bill decided to start sitting on his porch in the evenings to get to know his neighbors. It wasn’t long before core people and assistants from Ontario House made overtures of friendship. Bill knew that to let them into his life he would have to deal with the insecurities and fear he still harbored. He also knew it was time to take that step.

Over time Bill has discovered what we all find at L’Arche: people who have intellectual disabilities are great teachers and friends who can help us grow if we are open to reciprocal relationships.

“In my heart, whatever discomfort I had evaporated. I became completely open to loving these people,” Bill said. This is how L’Arche changes society, one person at a time, with an invitation to love and friendship.

Photo: Bethany Keener

Gene Sampson celebrates his 80th birthday with Kathleen Kang.

Rosa Harris, physical therapist, National Rehabilitation Hospital

SERVING OTHERS

Eileen Schofield, Bill Zavarello, and Mo Higgs enjoy being neighbors.

It was so special for me to see how dedicated L’Arche is to providing care and comfort to another human being.

We’re a loving family. That’s what I like, and that’s what God wants.

Charles Clark, L’Arche representative

Photo: Keira Klein

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Though L’Arche assistants are not medical professionals, they are trained to administer medication and to recognize potential medical conditions. One afternoon at dinner, assistant Ellen Green noticed Gene Sampson was having difficulty talking and was experiencing weakness on his left side.

Gene’s CAT scan at the emergency room revealed he had suffered two strokes. He was admitted to the hospital and later to National Rehabilitation Hospital for several weeks of intense therapy.

For the next month, L’Arche assistants accompanied him to multiple occupational, speech, and physical therapy appointments. Not a day went by without a visitor, and when Gene turned eighty, L’Arche staged a party. They celebrated with cake and balloons.

“It’s a community we have been talking about, learning about, and adapting to the changing physical needs of our core people—especially those who are aging,” says Bob Jacobs, home-life coordinator at Euclid House.

The additional training the assistants went through to be equipped to care for Gene when he returned home prompted tremendous professional growth. The household routine now includes Gene’s two exercise sessions and more medications, but everyone is happy to have him home where he belongs.